

Meeting of the
Idaho HVAC Board
Red Lion Inn – 1357 Blue Lakes Blvd. N.
Twin Falls, Idaho

April 25, 2006

MINUTES

Time and Place

A regular meeting of the Idaho HVAC Board was held on April 25, 2006, in Twin Falls, Idaho.

Presiding

Patrick R. Minegar, Chairman

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05AM, Tuesday, April 25, 2006 by Pat Minegar, Chairman.

Those Present
Board

Pat Minegar, A-1 Heating and Cooling, Boise, ID, Chairman
Carol Alexander, Latah County, Moscow, ID
Jim Bledsoe, Jim's Heating & Cooling, Boise, ID
Steve Brown, Valley County, Cascade, ID
Mike Wisdom, Engineering Inc., Boise, ID

Staff

John A. McAllister, Administrator, DBS
Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator, DBS
Kay Christensen, Deputy Attorney General
Rich Watson, Acting HVAC/Plumbing Bureau Chief, DBS
Linda Hyde, Administrative Assistant, DBS
Russ Owen, Program Supervisor, DBS
Al Caine, Licensing Supervisor, DBS

Agenda

Chairman Minegar stated there are additions to the Agenda: Isokern discussion, dryer vents discussion and training curriculum-sheet metal vs. HVAC (Bob Myler). Mike Wisdom moved the Minutes from the January 24, 2006 be approved as presented, Jim Bledsoe seconded, all were in favor, motion passed.

Isokern Presentation

Dale Hall is the Isokern Western Regional Manager. This product is UL listed and ICC approved. Dale gave the history of Isokern and a description of his products. Isokern is a member of the HPBA. Members of the audience included Isokern employees who install the systems. Further discussion involved licensing and permitting for the Isokern products. Chairman

Minegar stated that he wants more time to research and discuss this issue and to talk with the Attorney General's office. Chairman Minegar asked Russ Owen to research the product and email out his recommendations to the HVAC Board members.

Update on BSU
Apprenticeship
Program

Rosie Rosco, BSU; BSU developed the PTE curriculum and this is the first year running the classes. BSU ran (4) first year classes and (1) 2nd year class. The other schools only ran first year classes. In the 2nd year class, they started with 16 students and ended with 13. In the first year classes, they started with about 100 students. A large number are lost due to basic skills and language problems. BSU is struggling with the Language issue. The curriculum is not in Spanish, some textbooks may be in Spanish. Chairman Minegar stated all the code books are in English, and none of the installation instructions are in Spanish. BSU will do monthly reports to DBS on the drop-out rates. Some people just sign up to get their license renewed and then drop out of school.

Al Caine discussed compliance and the struggle with issues involving school attendance. In order to be a valid, registered HVAC apprentice, people need to be in school it might be necessary to start sending out information notifying employers and the industry that DBS will be looking at their apprentice licenses as mandated by the statutes.

Online Apprenticeship
Program

Chris Compton had provided the Board with a hand-out explaining how many students are enrolled, how many have completed the program and the attrition figures. Bruce Graham explained that one of his own apprentices is enrolled in the program and it is going well. Chairman Minegar asked if Bruce knew how many instructors were involved in the online program, Bruce did not, Bob Corbell did and answered eight. Each section that starts has a new set of instructors. Rosie Rosco asked about evaluations for the online classes. Mike Wisdom stated there were survey results (feedback) from the students showing an average score of 3.8, which amounts to a very good evaluation. Dan Brizee added that the next level of education, commercial, is very important. In Twin Falls, they are faced with big projects coming up with

the schools, and hospital, and maybe a new hospital across the canyon. Dan is suggesting as the education evolves, industrial/commercial needs are going to have to be addressed.

Gas Piping Class

Chairman Minegar stated Hearth needs a stand alone piping class. Hearth has not developed its curriculum yet. Andrea Mihm stated Hearth had found an on-line class (HVACR). Rosie stated BSU can offer it whenever the Hearth people need it. It is a 60 hour class. Dan Brizee asked if it can be a road show? Rosie responded each of the schools around the state can offer it. It is in the curriculum already developed. Rick Evans (Rocky Mountain Propane Assoc.), stated the Association is very interested in trying to get this gas piping class going. Dan Brizee asked if Rosie's 60 hour gas piping class can stand alone as a testing mechanism to allow Hearth to get their 60 hours qualification. Chairman Minegar stated why not? Steve Brown agreed. Chairman Minegar then stated we need more than one class; three or four would be great. This Board recognizes BSU's 60 hour gas piping class as a viable gas piping stand alone. Hearth is going to utilize it. All this Board recognizes is Hearth as a Specialty license. Al Caine stated there are no Hearth Specialty licenses being issued at this point in time. No exam has been developed. All the pieces are in place, the Administrative Rule is in place, but the exam to give to issue those licenses is still not there. Kay stated the Rule says the applicant for a Specialty Journeyman License must successfully complete an examination designated by the Board.

Civil Penalties

The language this Board approved has been submitted to the Office of Administrative Rules should be published in the May Bulletin.

Examination Motion

Mike Wisdom made a Motion that for a period not to exceed 18 months from the date of this Motion, the Board accept, as sufficient examination for Certification of Specialty (Hearth) HVAC Journeymen, proof acceptable to the Board of the applicant's receipt of passing scores on both the Board approved 60 hour gas piping course and all parts of the NFI program examination. Steve Brown seconded, all aye, Motion passed.

Exhaust Fans/Connection
HVAC/Electrical

Russ Owen stated there is concern whether the Electrical Contractor can run the duct piping off of a bathroom fan. In eastern Idaho a lot of the HVAC Contractors allow them to run that duct off the fan because they don't want to have to go back and do it. There is a permitting issue also. Permits include each duct for the fan at \$5.00 a duct. Is this fee included in the cost of the permit itself, or is the Electrical Contractor charged the fee? Decision was made that the Electrician can put the \$5.00 fan vent on Electrical permit rather than on the HVAC permit. Chairman Minegar stated there is a Memorandum of Understanding with the Electricians, and Plumbers, and it may need expanded. Chairman Minegar stated HVAC needs to sit down with the Electrical Board and the Division of Building Safety and work together to come to an understanding. Steve Keys stated this subject has not come up to the Electrical Board. There is a Board Chairmen meeting the end of May and this topic will be discussed at that time.

Financial Report

Steve Keys stated 2/3 of the year is gone and expenditures are 46% on personnel and 31% on operating expenses. The reason those are so low, is the agency was slow ramping up on the inspection effort this year. It won't look that way next year. The cash balance, has gone from \$1,133,219.62 at the first of the year to a \$1,570,893.77 at the end of February which indicated the revenue stream is growing. The Plumbing Board is looking for this Board to pay back some of the money owed on the loan. Jim Bledsoe asked how much HVAC owes the Plumbers, Steve Keys answered around \$800,000.00. Chairman Minegar stated it was DBS that paid the first installment and is asking if DBS wants permission from this Board to make further payments to the Plumbing Board? John McAllister stated no, DBS will make payments without compromising the ongoing operation. Chairman Minegar asked the Plumbing Bureau be paid in full as soon as possible.

New HVAC
Chairman

Chairman Minegar's two year term is expiring; he has talked with Steve Keys about the situation. Hopefully by next meeting in June, there will be appointments to the Board to fill the vacancies, and there can be a vote for Chairman.

Legislation

Kay brought up HP 761 bonding legislation. This Board should discuss in future meetings how they

feel about the required bonding. Chairman Minegar, speaking to Steve Keys, asked if the Plumbers believe it will be back next year. They are not in favor of it. Steve answered that is correct. The next question involved the Electrical Board's opinion of this Bill and is there any chance of the three Board's taking a position, all having the same opinion and being proactive on this before next year?

Basically what the Division and the Boards need is the industry to step forward and tell the legislature either we endorse the concept of a Bond, or we don't see the need for a Bond, we don't see that it provides for any protection for anybody and the other provision was we will endorse the Bond as soon as you endorse it for all contractors who are registered. If you are going to do it, do it for everybody. It is really in the hands of the industry. The industry needs to step up and say, we don't want that Bond, and we don't think it does anybody any good, or we want that Bond and DBS will get on board with it. Steve believes coming to the Boards for an industry decision is not the right way to go. It needs to come from the industry itself. The Board can take a position if it wants to; the perfect place to discuss that is the Board Chair meeting next month.

Chairman Minegar added it is the job of the Boards to educate the industry. Steve Keys agreed. Bob Corbel stated another problem is Bonds for Electrical and HVAC are different than Plumbing. Plumbing allows out of state people to rent/lease licenses.

Steve Keys brought up the fact the LPG Board legislation did go through so they now have the exclusive jurisdiction on the outside line from the tank to the second stage regulator on the outside of the house.

Educational Liaison Discussion

Al Caine stated this Board is an oversight mechanism of the education happening in this state. The other Board's don't have a specific Board member designated as a liaison. Chairman Minegar stated he would rather have the whole Board be oversight, not just one Board member.

Bob Myler then spoke about Sheet Metal training. Their Apprentices were grandfathered in with the HVAC Apprentices, last summer they got the letter stating

they needed to be in an approved HVAC school. Mr. Myler wants to become an in-house instructor/employer. He was trying to become an adjunct instructor, but then he came up against the curriculum. He is a private institution; PTE only approves public funded institutions.

Mr. Myler would like to propose that if PTE or the public education system would recognize him as an adjunct instructor and approve the Sheet Metal curriculum... Chairman Minegar asked Mr. Myler how long he has been teaching Sheet Metal, Mr. Myler stated five-six years. Chairman Minegar asked Mr. Myler if he is prepared to say that after completing your curriculum, the students would be able to and pass the existing ICC exam that is in place right now? Mr. Myler responded yes, he believed he would be able to incorporate enough information so when he graduates a Journeyman, and sends him down to take the test, he will pass that test.

Mr. Myler stressed he can be an adjunct instructor and he can work through ISU, but can't do that because they require that HVAC curriculum be taught. His concern and what he needs to understand and work through with the Board is the curriculum this Board has approved and the guidelines that have been set-up that Rosie is going to implement, is going to be the state program for the HVAC Board.

Jim Bledsoe stated this Board cannot go back and change the law. Maybe what is needed is another specialty just for sheet metal.

Steve Keys suggested the Bureau come back to the next meeting with recommendations on how to facilitate this situation.

Chairman Minegar asked Robert Myler to attend the June 27th meeting in Meridian.

Condensate Drains

Russ Owen/Jim Bledsoe, attended a contractor's meeting in Twin Falls. They wanted to put together a request that there be a drain installed like a water softener loop. A lot of problems finding places to run the condensate drains, wanting to know if this Board would be willing to

negotiate some sort of a deal with the Plumbing Board about having a drain installed near a furnace.

Dryer Vents

Jim Bledsoe has been looking into this, increasing the pipe size to be a distance further than the 25 feet or 15 feet if you add the two elbows. The International Mechanical Code says 25 feet is allowed. Kay stated she is grappling with this subject. Understands it is regulated by the IMC, but not regulated by this Board. This Board's jurisdiction is HVAC systems, not everything that may be covered by the IMC. It is a vent. Only during new construction is the vent inspected. Existing houses, just plug in the appliance to the old vent, no inspection required.

Steve Keys stated this Board must be careful here. If this Board is going to define a dryer vent as part of an HVAC system, then anybody that goes out there and connects the dryer is going to have to be licensed to do HVAC. Steve believes between now and the next HVAC meeting, everyone needs to take a hard look at this. Range hoods also. These are all open questions.

Kay stated some of the things talked about today are all related to the same issue. What really is an HVAC system because that is what is talked about as being the jurisdiction of the Board. Not part of ventilation equipment, but part of an HVAC system. Kay needs to spend some time exploring what really is an HVAC system. The question is does this Board have jurisdiction over anything other than HVAC systems? Kay will have to research this issue.

Chairman Minegar stated he would like to see the Division of Building Safety work with Kay to define these gray areas.

Carol Alexander stated if the Division of Building Safety, HVAC Bureau only deals with Heating Ventilation systems, then the inspectors would be consigned to heating systems. But if the State mandates that we adopt the Mechanical Code, then there is...Kay stated no. You don't dovetail your jurisdiction under the code. Carol stated no, not jurisdiction, talking about the HVAC Bureau that has mechanical inspectors, HVAC inspectors. Steve Keys stated

our people are HVAC Inspector Advisors, the problem is similar to the Electrical, where the national electrical code has been adopted by the state, but the Division of Building Safety cannot enforce certain provisions of the electrical code, because it doesn't have the authority. Carol stated we have a dividing line between installation and inspections the HVAC Bureau is at odds with itself. Kay stated that is why research is needed here. It needs to be fixed.

Post Board Members
Information on Website

All of the HVAC Board members agreed to putting their names and business telephone numbers on the HVAC website.

No Executive Session was called for.

The HVAC Board meeting ended at 2:25 pm.

John A. McAllister, Administrator

Date

Steve Keys, Deputy Administrator, Operations

Date

Rich Watson, Acting HVAC/Plumbing Bureau Chief

Date

Patrick R. Minegar, Chairman HVAC Board

Date